



**House Ways and Means
Subcommittee
January 30, 2018**



South Carolina Commission for the Blind

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Commissioner
James M. Kirby

January 10th, 2018

The Honorable Murrell Smith, Jr., Chairman
The Honorable William Clyburn
The Honorable Garry Smith
The Honorable Jimmy Bales

House Ways and Means
Health and Human Services Sub-committee
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Representatives:

The following fiscal year 2018-2019 budget plan for the South Carolina Commission for the Blind is submitted for your consideration.

The South Carolina Commission for the Blind is requesting recurring state funds in the amount of \$125,000. These funds would be used in our Children's Services Program (\$25,000) and our Prevention of Blindness Program (\$100,000), which both are 100% state funded.

SCCB is also, requesting \$195,000 of non-recurring funds. These funds would be used to purchase an outfitted mobile unit.

We appreciate your consideration of our budget request as we provide services to the blind citizens of South Carolina to promote employment, independence, and self-reliance.

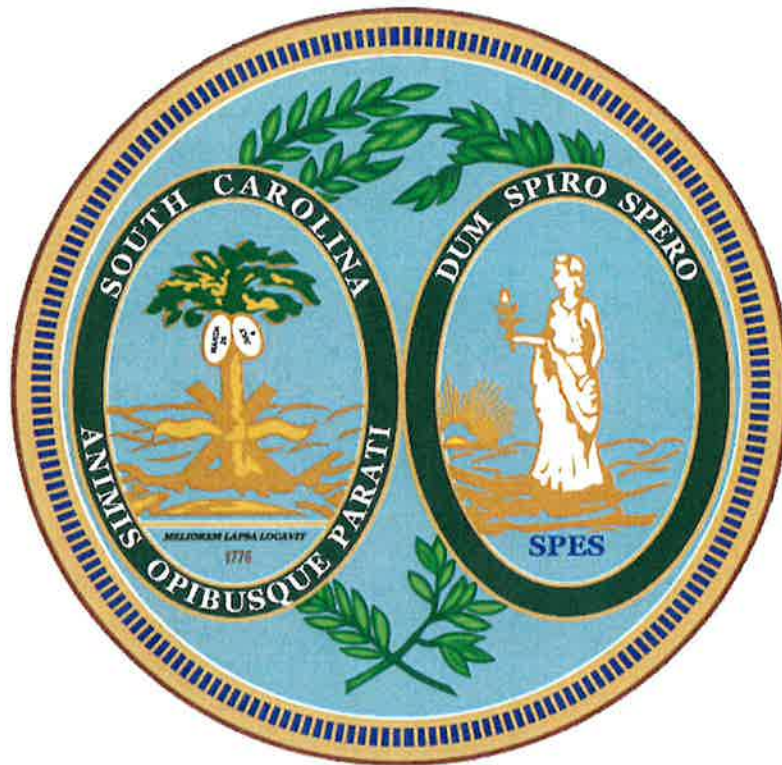
If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James M. Kirby", is written over a circular stamp.

James M. Kirby
Commissioner

South Carolina Commission for the Blind



Created by State Law on May 6, 1966

Mission Statement

The mission of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind is to provide quality vocational rehabilitation services, independent living services and prevention of blindness services to blind and visually impaired individuals leading to competitive employment and social and economic independence.

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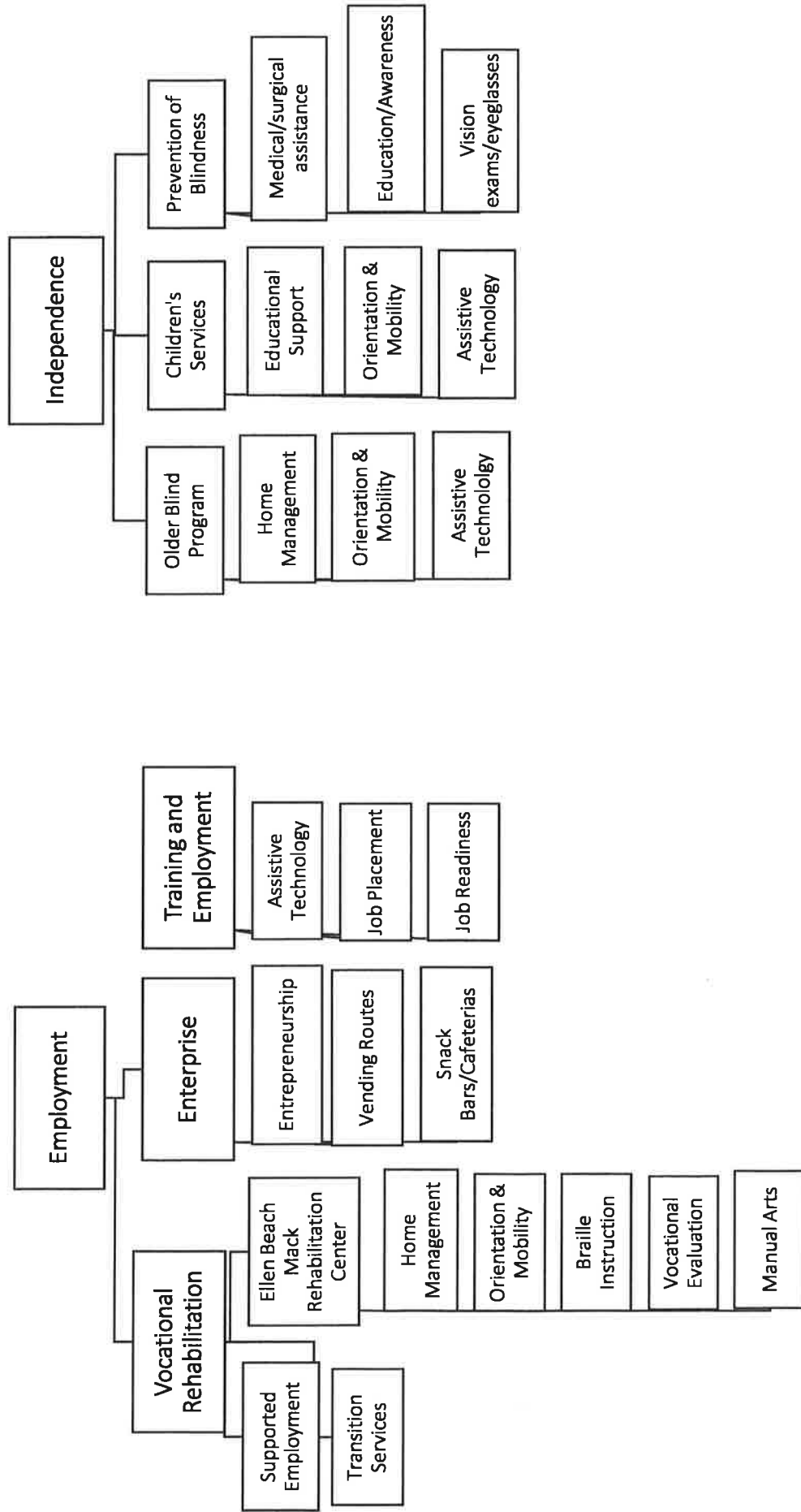
South Carolina Commission for the Blind

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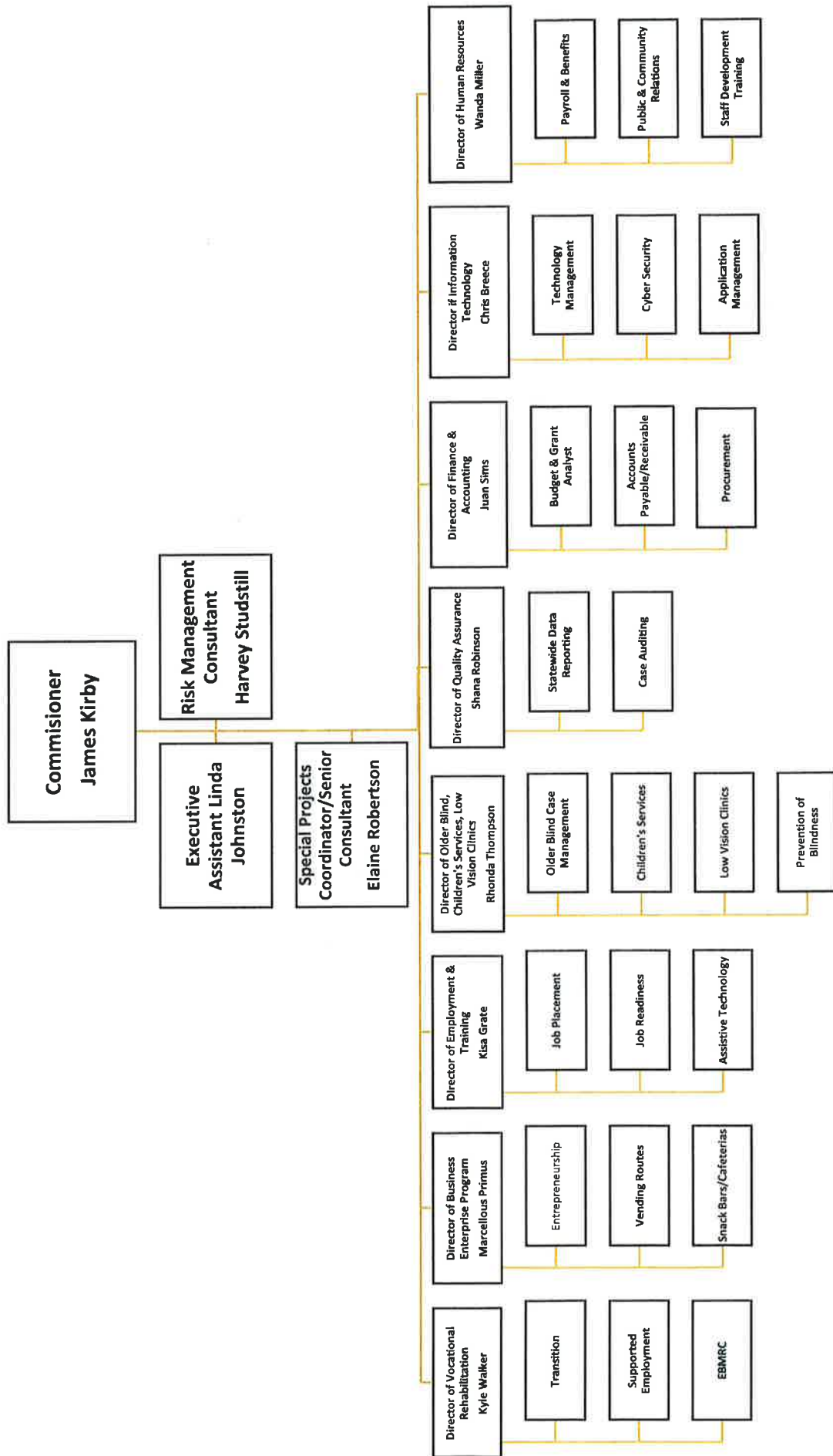
South Carolina Commission for the Blind Key Contact Officials

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Director of Information Technology	Christopher Breece 803-898-8859 Chris.Breece@sccb.sc.gov
Director of Older Blind, Prevention, Children's Services and Low Vision	Rhonda Thompson 864-241-1111 Rhonda.Thompson@sccb.sc.gov
Budget Coordinator	Carrie Morris 803-898-8835 Carrie.Morris@sccb.sc.gov

SCCB Programs and Core Services



The mission of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind is to provide quality, individualized vocational rehabilitation services, independent living services, and prevention of blindness services to blind and visually impaired consumers leading to competitive employment and social and economic independence.



South Carolina Commission for the Blind Agency Highlights

1. STEM Exploration Week utilizing the 3-D Career Exploration Lab assisted by instructors from NASA.
2. Implemented BOOST, a program for transition age youth in collaboration with community partners and over 700 certificates have been issued for completion of various components including self-advocacy training, college exploration, job readiness and work based learning experiences.
3. Children's Services hosted a Summer Reading Challenge and the annual Braille Challenge. They also worked closely with SCCB Vocational Rehabilitation Program and successfully helped 12 consumer move from Children's to Transition Services as they reached age 14.
4. The Older Blinder Program continues to grow and is currently serving over 700 consumer aged 55 and older across the state. Over 400 were successfully closed as they reaches their goal of independent living.
5. Prevention of Blindness continues to grow and served over 30 consumers last year with sight restoring procedures.
6. Our Low Vision Clinics provided over 500 exams in the past year and distributed magnifiers, raised dots and numerous other assistive items to allow consumers to remain as independent as possible.
7. Our IT Department has successfully worked with Department of Technology Operation to migrate the SCCB infrastructure. This process has increased SCCB internet security and stability of the system.
8. Finance developed a process to work with SCDVR to successfully ensure compliance with the 15% Pre-ETS funding requirement set by the Rehabilitation Services Administration.
9. The Business Enterprise Program continues to grow and currently has almost 90 Blind Licensed Vendors operating vending routes, cafeterias, and snack bars at over 100 locations across the state.
10. SCCB was honored to accept an award from Verizon in Charleston as the Diversity Partner of the Year.
11. SCCB staff has been diligently working towards professional certification in many areas including Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, Certified Public Manager, Certified Benefits Specialist, Global Career Development Facilitator and Certified Assistive Technology Instructional Specialist.

Current New Year Funding

Funding for the currently FY17-18 will be used to implement a SCEIS and AWARE interface providing greater efficiency and accuracy in data collection and reporting. This will also increase productivity as information will no longer have to be entered separately into each system.

3 Year Authorization and Expenditure History

	FY17		FY16		FY15	
	Authorization	Expenditure	Authorization	Expenditure	Authorization	Expenditure
General Fund	3,769,846	3,730,608	3,409,108	3,137,787	3,239,369	2,977,594
Federal Fund	8,433,255	8,433,247	8,433,255	7,529,829	8,433,255	7,328,733
Other Fund	403,000	25,073	403,000	53,560	293,000	156,681

Prioritized Budget Requests

1 Children's Services Program Increase

\$ 25,000 (RECURRING)

Change in the cost of providing current services to existing program audience. The requested additional funds of \$ 25,000.00 are needed specifically for case services. Case Services needs are increasingly greater than our current budget provided. Children's Services is assisting approximately 100 children between the ages of 3 and 13. Many consumers remain on the caseload for up to ten years and the equipment needs for the consumers frequently change each year. Significant expenditures frequently take place subsequent to a thorough assessment conducted by our technical team. This review ensures the appropriate equipment is recommended. Some of the cost are as follows:

CCTV's \$ 2,200.00; iPads \$ 900.00; Various software \$ 700.00 to \$ 800.00
Vision Devices \$ 500.00 to \$ 600.00; Brailers \$ 800.00 to \$ 900.00

2 Prevention of Blindness Program Increase

\$ 100,000 (RECURRING)

Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guideline. The Blind Commission underwent a Legislative Oversight Study in 2016. One of the recommendation of this; study; was to request funds to bring the Prevention of Blindness Program back to the pre-recession funding levels. This program provides medical treatment for cataract removal and to correct retinal detachments and other medical procedures.

3 Mobile Unit

\$ 195,000.00 (NON-RECURRING)

This is a proposed establishment of a new program and initiative. SCCB would purchase a customized mobile unit to travel the state of South Carolina to provide assessments, vision screening, testing and to allow a team to bring services to rural area consumers of the great state of South Carolina. Goals in our agency Strategic Plan and Statewide Strategic Plan include increasing and improving our services to rural areas of the state.

Agency Cost Saving for General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan

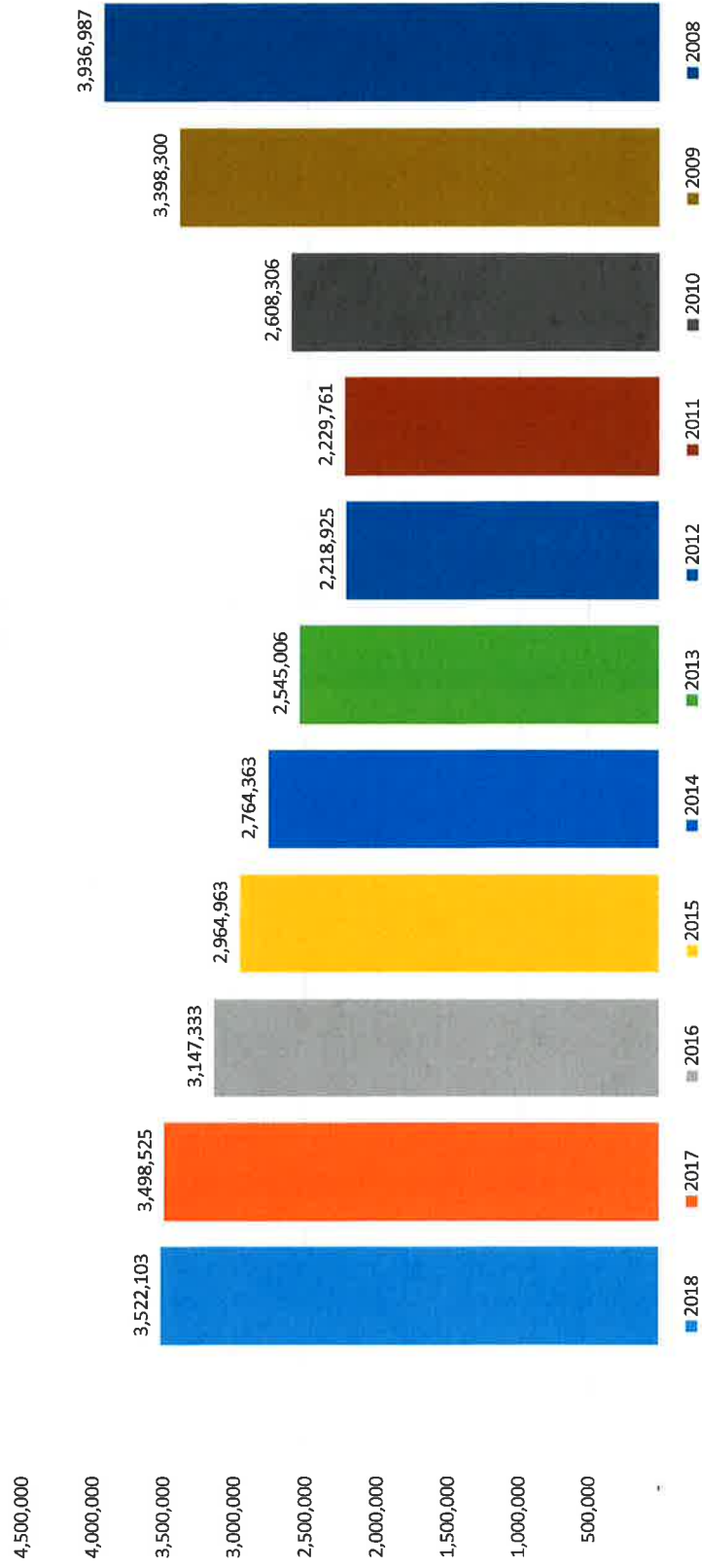
\$ 105,633.00

A 3% reduction to the case services budget would greatly impact the service delivery to our consumers. The consumers in our Vocational Rehabilitation program need training, and often medical services, to remain or obtain employment.

Reducing Cost and Burden to Business and Citizens

South Carolina Commission for the Blind does not changes any fees or fines.

11 Years of Recurring State Appropriations



FY18 has one-time state funds of \$100,000 for the creation of a SCEIS and AWARE interface.